



ERVING VOTES MONDAY
On Conservation Land
 see page 12



THE SUN IS WELCOME
At the Farmers Market
 see page 16

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 4 - NO. 37

also serving Gill, Erving and Wendell

50¢

REPORTER@MONTAGUEMA.NET

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

June 22, 2006

Three in a Row!

TURNERS 1, NORTH READING 0
DIVISION III STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

BY DAVID DETMOLD
WORCESTER - Evenly matched for perhaps the first time this year, the Turners Falls girls softball team emerged triumphant in the Division III state championship tourney in Worcester this Saturday on a two-out, bottom of the fifth stand-up triple to deep center field off the bat of junior Ashleigh St. Peter, driving in Kim Arsenault for the game's one and only run. As she reached third base and the hometown fans exploded, St. Peter was all smiles.

"I felt this anger and disappointment building up from my first two at-bats. I told myself, "You just go in

there and get it done. When I hit the ball I could barely feel it. I knew it was going to go far." And it did, sailing over the head of North Reading's Jessica Scioli and bouncing out to the center field wall.

St. Peter's game-winning drive came after a seesaw battle between two excellent teams, fronted by two phenomenal pitchers. North Reading sophomore Caroline Gattuso was fierce and unflappable, striking out seven, walking none, and allowing six hits, three of them triples. But Gattuso fought back after the extra-base hits by Julie Girard in the first, Chelseigh St. Peter in the second, and the elder St. Peter,

see **SOFTBALL** pg 8

Creche Display Prompts Free Speech Dispute

BY DAVID DETMOLD
MONTAGUE CENTER Eric Chester, known lately as the 2002 1st Congressional District Socialist candidate against John Olver, is back in the political spotlight, mounting a campaign for 1st Amendment rights on the Montague Town Common. He appeared before the Montague selectboard on

Monday, June 19th, seeking the board's approval to put up a 2' x 6' sign on the common saying, "U.S. Out of Iraq Now"

The board hesitated to approve Chester's request, until he pointed out they have routinely permitted the Congregational Church to put up a crèche scene around Christmastime each year, and the U.S. Supreme

Court, in *Knights of Columbus vs. Town Of Lexington* (2001) held that any regulations governing the use of the town common must be "content neutral." In other words, if any displays are allowed on a town common, for a certain length of time, all displays must be allowed, for a similar length of time. Another option open to a town

would be to ban all displays on the common.

The history of the dispute in Lexington is summarized in the background of the Supreme Court docket for *Knights of Columbus vs. Lexington* as follows:

"For most of the 20th century, the crèche -- a figurine representation of Christ's nativity in the sta- see **CRECHE** pg 6



DAVOL PHOTO

Canoe and Kayak Demo Makes a Splash at Barton Cove

BY DAVID DETMOLD
GREAT FALLS - The scene on the grassy spit of land that stretches out toward Barton Cove at the end of Unity Park resembled a Medieval regatta on Sunday, with brightly colored pennants and tents set up along the greensward and people zipping about the river on various small craft. For once, the sun was out, and people were glad to get their feet wet, with the thermometer cresting at 95 degrees. Michael Zabre, owner of the Wildwater Outfitter stores in Hadley and

Brattleboro, was there presiding over the 23rd Annual Canoe and Kayak Demo Day, and people came from miles around to take canoes and kayaks out for a spin on the river.

Representatives from various companies were there to answer questions from potential customers; canoes and kayaks were 10% off their retail price for the day. Old Town, Wenonah and Bell canoes were available for trial, as well as over 100 kayaks see **CANOE** pg 14

Student Print Show to Raise Funds for Charity at the Hallmark Museum

BY CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUCANNO
TURNERS FALLS - In 1970, a Washington, D.C. fine art dealer named Harry Lunn discovered the work of photographer Ansel Adams. He became so enthralled with Adams' photographs that he bought a small collection for a few hundred dollars direct from the photographer. At the time of his purchase photography was not seen by many as an art form; in fact, only the Lee Witkin Gallery in New York, which opened in 1969, was routinely engaged in selling photographic prints. The auction houses,



Photograph by Steven Siedentopf

accustomed to selling paintings and sculpture, turned up their noses at photographs. In 1971, proud of his Adams collection, Lunn did what

gallery owners always do: had a show. A lucky collector came into the gallery and bought a 16x20 print of what is see **SHOW** pg 16

Three Sisters Farm Takes Root in Montague Center

BY VERA FOLEY
MONTAGUE CENTER - "We started with a meadow," Kristina Kainen explained, gesturing over the two acres of farmland that lie in precise rows behind her. Last year, there were no raised beds holding the promise of summer produce on this part of Greenfield Road: there was only a flat expanse of grass.

Tom Fair and Kristina



Kristina Kainen and Tom Fair at Three Sisters Farm in Montague.

Kainen, respectively farm manager and customer accounts manager of the Three Sisters Farm, have changed that.

The Three Sisters

Farm is named after the Three Sisters of the Iroquois: corn, beans, and squash, and Fair and Kainen have built their

see **FARM** pg 10

PET OF THE WEEK

Wanna Play?



Freedom

Freedom is an eight-year-old greyhound in need of a good home. Don't be fooled by his age; this boy is ready to play! He loves to play with other dogs (in a fenced-in area) almost as much as he loves to snuggle up with you. He is a super social and loving boy who enjoys having a warm place to rest his head. If you are new to Greyhounds or are just looking for a mellow, loving, playful companion to spend some time with, then Freedom may be your guy! He gets along well with other dogs, but it would be best if Freedom lives in a home without cats.

For more info on adopting Freedom, please contact the Dakin Animal Shelter in Leverett at 548-9898 or via email at info@dakinshelter.org.

ERVING LIBRARY NEWS

What's Buzzin'?

The Erving Public Library kicks off the library's Summer Program Series.

Free and open to all ages, the program is funded by the Erving Cultural Council. For more information, call the library at 423-3348.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY NEWS

Creepy Crawly Creatures

Rae Griffiths of Teaching Creatures showed children a millipede and other "Creepy Crawly Creatures" at the kick-off for the Summer Reading Program at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, June 20th.



PHOTO BY LINDA HICKMAN

Watershed Team Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Millers River Watershed Council and Watershed Team is Monday, June 26th, at 7 p.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol.

Ecologist Matt Hickler

will present results of a recently completed study of Aquatic Plant Diversity and Comparative Limnology of Lakes and Ponds of the Worcester Plateau Ecoregion.

The study, conducted with limnologist Stuart Ludlam, (and centered in the Millers River Watershed) takes a look at environmental factors that influence biodiversity, and should help direct regional conservation efforts.

For more information contact MRWC at 978-248-9491 or email: council@millersriver.net.

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA

Buying and selling used books

32 BRIDGE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
SHELburnE FALLS, MA
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com closed Mondays

TIRED OF LATE FEES?

Ask us about our Movie Lover's Membership
No Due Dates • No Late Fees

VIDEO TO GO

The Valley's Best Selection of Classic, Foreign, Independent & Hard to Find Films - Over 30,000 Titles
SEE JUST HOW DIFFERENT A VIDEO STORE CAN BE
50 Federal St., Greenfield 773-1701

SENIOR CENTER ACTIVITIES June 26th - 30th

MONTAGUE Senior Center, 62 Fifth St., Turners Falls, is open Mon. - Fri. from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Make meal reservations a day in advance by 11 a.m. Messages can be left on the machine when the center is closed (863-9357). Mealsite manager is Chris Richer. The center offers a hot noon meal weekdays to any senior. Transportation to the center can be provided. Special trip coordinator is Jean Chase. Make trip reservations by calling 772-6356. Payment and menu choice is due three weeks prior to trip.

Monday, 26th
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11:30 a.m. PACE Aerobics
Tuesday, 27th

9:30 a.m. Aerobics
Wednesday, 28th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday, 29th
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday, 30th
10:15 a.m. Senior Aerobics
11 a.m. PACE Aerobics

ERVING Senior Center, 18 Pleasant St., Erving (Old Center School, 1st Floor), is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. For information and reservations call Polly Kiely, Senior Center director at (413) 423-3308. Lunch daily at 11:30 a.m. with reservations a day in advance by 11:00 a.m. Transportation can be provided for meals, Thursday shopping, or

FACES & PLACES

Shelby helps with mural preparation across the alley from the Brick House Community Resource Center

Leverett Historic Society Open House

The Leverett Historic Society invites the public to an Open House, Sunday June 25th, from 1-3 p.m., rain or shine. At the historic Moore's Corner Meetinghouse in North Leverett (located three miles east on North Leverett Road just off of Route 63 in Montague).

Stop by to explore some old-time New England artifacts, read some historical trivia of this New England town, do a little family research, or just visit, have a glass of lemonade and share a story or two.

The Meetinghouse will also be open most Sundays, 1-3

p.m. for July and August, for visitors. All are welcome.

Feel Like a Brand New Person!

With a Haircut at **Ed's Barber Shop**

115 Avenue A • 863-2085
Ed, Denise & KarriAnn
"51 Years on the Ave"

STRAWBERRY SUPPER

June 24th 6:00 pm
Montague Center Congregational Church
Baked Stuffed Chicken Breast
• Rice • Gravy
• Salad & Hot Veggies
Price: \$9.00
Children 10 & Under: \$4.00
Reservations: 367-2736 or 774-7256

We've Got You Covered!

SATURDAY SPECIAL
ARTIST SUPPLIES
25% OFF

COUTURE BROS
Since 1910
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls • 863-4346

Great Falls Farmers Market

Wednesday, June 28th
Avenue A & 6th St
Peskeomskut Park
3 - 6 P.M.

- Perennials • Grass Fed Local Beef • Maple Products • Baked Goods
- Cucumbers • Summer Squash

New Vendors Welcome
Call 863-9026

LIVE IN MONTAGUE?

EST. 1754

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

Writers Wanted

The Montague Reporter is looking for writers to cover news events, arts, features, etc.
Please call 863-8666

The Montague Reporter

Published weekly on Thursday
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
PHONE (413) 863-8666
FAX (413) 863-3050
reporter@montaguema.net

Postmaster: Send address changes to
The Montague Reporter
24 3rd Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is Tuesday at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper

Subscription Rates:
\$20 for 6 months

THE SHADY GLEN

PROPRIETORS
BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Serving homemade soups, fresh seafood, homemade desserts and homestyle cooking.

42 YEARS ON AVENUE A
863-9636

Rhubarb Pie Social at the Grange for Accessibility Fund

BY CINDY GREEN & MICHAEL MULLER

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Montague Grange hosted a Pie Social on Sunday, June 18th, with a Family Dance called by Cindy Green, and with guest musicians from Rhubarb Pie -- making the event a sort-of "Rhubarb Pie Rhubarb Pie Social" - to initiate the Grange Accessibility Fund. Four hundred dollars was raised by donations for the family and contra dances, and ticket sales for the Pie Social, and a good time was had by all!

Approximately 50 people



The Rhubarb Pie String Band performs at the Montague Grange on Sunday to initiate the Grange Accessibility Fund.

were in attendance for the Pie Social, which is a sort of combination circle-dance meets musical chairs. Whoever is holding the bouquet at the end of a dance wins a pie. Pie varieties included Strawberry, Strawberry Rhubarb, 'Bluebarb' (blueberry rhubarb), Strawberry/Raspberry, Strawberry/Raspberry/Peach, Wild Blueberry, Lemon Dream Pie, Key Lime Pie, Shaker Lemon Pies, and an Apple Pie.

The beautiful Montague Grange hall, long the center of Grange, cultural and recreational activities for countless Montague and other Franklin county residents, is in need of some improvements to become more accessible, particularly for its elderly members and the public in general.

Our sister Grange, the Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield, embarked on an ambitious accessibility campaign that included the installation of an elevator, reserved accessible parking spaces, and updating of the restrooms. Their building has thus become accessible to people with disabilities, elders who use canes, and families with strollers. Many people were skeptical at first that such

an undertaking would ever happen. This new accessibility makes that lovely old hall one of the showplace Granges in Massachusetts, if not the USA.

Pie Socials and Cake Walks have been used as fun(d) raisers for many generations elsewhere, possibly even at this Grange hall, in an earlier time. We are including this "Pie Social" as part of a series of events and fundraisers, family or community dances, with volunteer musicians, callers and pie bakers -- and relying on the public to come and enjoy themselves dancing, with the possible added benefit of going home with a homemade pie as well. Proceeds will go toward the Montague Grange Accessibility Project.

Cindy Green, of Sunderland, dance caller and accessibility consultant, has orchestrated pie socials for a congregation in Somerville, MA, for almost 25 years. Their building is now wheelchair accessible, with an entrance ramp and an accessible restroom. She is spearheading the accessibility project for Montague Grange and can be reached at 665-3672 or cindy@u-access.net.

Season Totals at the Fish Ladder

BY MATTHEW MCMULLIN-LEGO

GREAT FALLS - The Turners Falls fish ladder had a good year in terms of human attendance, but cold water temperatures and heavy flow impeded fish passage somewhat. Sunday was the last day to view fish passage through the viewing window. Here are the totals for the number and kind of fish that used the ladder this season:

American Shad: 1703
 Sea Lamprey: 2730
 Blueback Herring: 1
 Atlantic Adult Salmon: 1
 Salmon Smolt: 9
 Common Carp: 6
 Pumpkinseed: 3
 Black Crappy: 1
 Rock Bass: 2
 Small Mouth Bass: 118
 Large Mouth Bass: 20
 Rainbow Trout: 17
 Brook Trout: 19
 Brown Trout: 1
 The Holyoke fish elevator

totals as of Sunday are as follows:

American Shad: 151,475
 Sea Lamprey: 16,261
 Blueback Herring: 21
 Atlantic Adult Salmon: 95
 Striped Bass: 76
 Gizzard Shad: 94

If you would like more information, please call: 413-548-9628 or visit the US Fish and Wildlife website at www.fws.gov/R5CRC/fish/fish.html.

Ham Radio Operators Demonstrate Field Capabilities

BY HYRUM H. HUSKEY JR., (KB1KRS) & RICHARD BURNHAM, (AC1L)

GREENFIELD - Local Ham Radio operators will be showing off their emergency capabilities this weekend by operating under field conditions at Poets Seat Tower in Greenfield. This event is part of the American Radio Relay League's national Field Day event. More than 30,000 amateur radio operators across the country participated in last year's event, with stations set up in community schools, shopping malls, and backyards across the nation.

The local station, sponsored

by the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, Inc., will set up on Saturday morning and operate from 2:00 pm Saturday June 24th until approximately noon on Sunday, June 25th. A voice and a Morse



Walt Congdon, W1ZPB, of Northfield installs his antenna feedwire in a previous Field Day.

code station will be in operation, both battery powered and operating on low power mode.

The Poet's Seat site is a preferred operating location because it

gives operators a clear transmission path in all directions. Contact can be easily made with FEMA Headquarters in Framingham as well as the Western Massachusetts Headquarters in Belchertown. During emergencies, communications can also be maintained with Springfield and Mount Greylock and with amateurs using the Mount Ascutney repeater in Vermont.

This year is expected to be especially difficult for making contacts using low power transmissions. The current sun spot cycle is nearing its bottom, making propagation spotty.

CORRECTIONS

In last week's article about the Montague Budget Powwow, a quotation at the end of the article -- "I feel a poorness of spirit" -- was incorrectly attributed to finance committee member Marge Levenson. Finance committee member Lynn Reynolds actually made the remark.

An article in last week's paper listed the hours of The Smokin' Hippo incorrectly. The Smokin' Hippo is open until 8 p.m. on Sundays. We apologize for the error!

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
 Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
 Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change
 194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
 10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

Richard Mascavage (413) 863-4246
 Owner Open 7 Days A Week
Pipione's
SPORT SHOP
 Fishing - Hunting - Athletic -
 Live Bait - Paintball Supplies
 CO: Fills - T-Shirt, Uniform & Cap Printing
 101 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA 01376



The Smokin' Hippo
 A Family Restaurant and Barbecue
 20 French King Highway
 Erving, Ma 01344-4444
 Phone: (413) 423-3220
 Barbecue and Full Traditional Menu
 Full Liquor License
 Hours: Tue/Wed/Thu: 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Fri/Sat: 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun: noon-4 p.m.
 Local Photographs and Hippo Paintings also available

HK Power Town Apartments
 152 Avenue A
 PO Box 48
 Turners Falls, MA
 413-863-9433
 professionally managed by:
HallKeen Management, Inc.
 rental office on the corner of Ave. A & 4th St.
 Sharon Cottrell
 Property Manager

PARTRIDGE-ZSCHAU, Incorporated
Insurance

 25 Millers Falls Road, P.O. Box 312
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 Tel. (413) 863-4331 (413) 773-5673
www.pzinc.com

REYNOLDS PROPERTIES
 256 North Pleasant Street
 Amherst, MA 01002
 Lynn Reynolds
 ABR GRI CRS
 "Aiming for
 Astonishing Service"
 413-367-2425 lynreynolds@verizon.net



The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, Mass. 01376

Editor

David Detmold

Assistant Editor

Kathleen Litchfield

Editorial Assistants

Nina Bander

Hugh Corr

Circulation

Jean Hebdon

Julia Bowden Smith

Philippe Deguise

Layout & Design

Lisa Davol

Boysen Hodgson

Kalren Hoyden

Karen Wilkinson

Suzette Snow Cobb

"The Voice of the Villages"

Photography

Lisa Davol

Joe Parzych

Anel Jones

et al

Technical Administrators

Michael Muller

Michael Farnick

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August, 2002

Life Along the Canal

A walk along the power canal on the morning of the summer solstice reveals new life in many forms. Swallows swoop and glide, threading the early mist off the water in joyous loops. Near to shore, a mother mallard lines up her twelve ducklings, teaching them to bob for food in the shal-

canal.

Unlike the busy rail-to-trail bike paths in Hampshire County, the freshly minted trail here in our backyard is still little used, by humans anyway. Some of them are to be seen walking their canines, a few coast by on bikes on the uncompleted pavement. Most of the creatures who



DETMOLD PHOTOS

A redwing blackbird sits on the fence by the canal

lows, never far from the safety of the reed beds. No bigger than a silver dollar, a stoic baby snapping turtle hunkers on the blacktop, still as stone. We wonder, has this little one accidentally perished, it lies so still? By the time we complete the last mile and return, the turtle has trundled off to the tall grass on his way to the



A young opossum plays by the bike path

frequent it, or fly along or wade beside it, do not speak our language. But they have much to tell us of the return of nature to the old urban spaces, healed of the hurts of man. It is glad tidings to a weary world to see these young things cavort in the first light of summer.

Looking back, the old church spires and factory stacks framed against the trestle bridges in the long rays of sunlight make you think the town itself is waiting, just beyond the mist, to be reborn.

We welcome your letters.

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd St Turners Falls, MA

01376 PHONE (413) 863-8666

FAX (413) 863-3050

reporter@montaguema.net

Where Did Operation Iraqi Freedom Go?



KAREN WILKINSON ILLUSTRATION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Antique Sign

I must respond to the 'Faces and Places' photo in the June 1st issue with the caption: "Students from Franklin County Technical School trim trees along Avenue A on Wednesday afternoon." In the photo, their cautionary sign reading "Men in

Trees" may be quaint, but it belongs in an antiquities exhibit back at school. It should read "Workers in Trees" unless female students are indeed excluded from taking this course.

If this thinking is too pro-

gressive for Franklin County Tech, a place where young people come to learn, then how about "Apes in Trees"? At least then I could laugh.

- Gini Brown
Berkeley, CA

Not So Fast on Dumping CAMA

Before the voters dump the state system of CAMA (the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal system in use by the Gill board of assessors), as recommended by the neophyte, it might be well to see why Gill assessors have been using CAMA successfully for so many years.

Alton LeVitre and James Connelly had been assessors for years, using the pen and pencil method, when the state pushed for use of computers. They reviewed several systems and came to the conclusion that the state system - CAMA - fit Gill's needs. It was the most economical and kept the local board in close contact with the growth of the town. Between re-vals, the

local board checked building permits, and stored information, so that local officers were up-to-date on Gill's changes.

All went well until 2005, when three parcels in a well-defined district sold for much more than their book value. In addition to those three, one of the most expensive houses to be constructed in Gill was built in the same defined area. The assessors would have had the same question to answer regardless of the software program in use: "Should the increase be reflected in its area on the map, or should folks in West Gill and on French King Highway share the cost of the river lovers hobbies?" Knowing that other towns had established Mountain

View and Lakeside Districts, the Gill board decided on a new district as being fair.

In 40 years with the board of assessors, I thought I had heard and seen it all. Courtesy took a holiday, and abuse and greed ran rampant.

There is nothing wrong with the CAMA system, if a person my age can be taught to use it, and there is support on the telephone 24/7. It calls for a little work by the local board, and members do have to know something about assessing to make proper decisions. They can't leave it all to paid consultants.

- Harriet Tidd
Gill

American Dead in Iraq as of 6/21/06



SIGN ME UP!

Now only \$20 for 26 issues!

The Montague Reporter

24 3rd Street, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mr. C will be Missed

It's the end of an era at the Gill Montague Regional School District (GMRSD). No, I'm not talking about the budget. I'm talking about the retirement of Mr. Steve Ciechowski, or as his band students affectionately call him, "Mr. C." Every now and then a person comes along that touches your life in extraordinary ways. It is by no means an exaggeration to say that my kids are better human beings because of the years that each of them spent in music and band with

Steve Ciechowski. The learning of discipline, how to play an instrument, playing in unison in a concert band, learning to march together as a team, learning to perform on stage, participating in community events such as Memorial Day ceremonies, these things are not learned in the everyday classroom. And, in my opinion, they are immeasurable in their worth to the students who participate and to the pride of a community. I am so grateful that my kids

and the students of the GMRSD have been blessed with such a gift over the past 33 years. So, Mr. C., I send out a very personal thank you for your dedication, your love of music and of the kids, for the laughs, the tie-dye pants and campfires and most of all for the strong values you have instilled in hundreds of kids over the years. You will be dearly missed.

- Mary Kociela, parent
Montague Center

GUEST EDITORIALS

Montague Center School Not Just a Building

BY JEFF SINGLETON
MONTAGUE CENTER - I thought it was ironic that last week's *Montague Reporter* featured the wonderful poetry of the Montague Center School third grade at the same time that former school committee member Joyce Phillips called for the closing of the school. Joyce's arguments about the condition of the building need to be considered as we move forward to resolve the perennial elementary school debate. But there are other important factors to consider as well.

A school is not just a building. It is the students in the classroom learning math, science, history and, yes, preparing for MCAS. It is the art on the walls and the poetry that appears in the local newspaper. It is the janitor who helps the very active PTO set up the annual Halloween event. It is the pond and the Sawmill River

which students study as part of an environmental curriculum. It is the pie auction and the winter skating party and the fishing derby, attended by parents and grandparents who also went to the school.

Some 'realists' will scoff at this list, calling it 'romantic.' I think it is the realists who are unrealistic. They often suggest that school closings will save big money for other programs. In fact savings from school consolidation are generally very small and do not resolve core budget problems. The realists also ignore a large body of research that support small schools like Montague Center, and they ignore the fact that in an era of school choice, it is these kinds of schools parents tend to choose.

Joyce, I think, makes the same mistake. She suggests the district could save seven teaching positions by closing the

school. But the numbers we have gotten from the school district do not support this. To save one teaching position you need to cut at least \$50,000 elsewhere. The estimate of seven teachers would require savings of \$350,000. But the most recent estimate is the closing of Montague Center School would save a bit over \$200,000 and approximately \$150,000 of that is from the elimination of... teaching positions.

In part, I am concerned that Joyce's estimates create the impression that there is an easy solution to the current budget crisis. Why are we cutting teachers, some might say? Let's just close Montague Center School. But the savings from closing the school are in teaching positions.

Joyce calls for vision in the current budget crisis and I agree. But maybe a vision would be getting out of the habit

of throwing Montague Center School on the table every time there is a crisis.

Another problem is that Joyce seems to completely ignore the hard work of the recent elementary school advisory committee and other options for the elementary schools. For example, one scenario developed by the committee would close a school on the Turners Falls campus and create parity through intra-district choice. It seems to me this would create a win-win situation for everyone in the district.

But of course, there are negatives to my preferred option and these should be considered too. The school committee should put all options on the table and encourage a healthy public discussion of them. Potential costs, savings and the condition of buildings should be considered. So should educational values, the research and

the choices parents make.

Then there needs to be a solution. We need one before next year's budget cycle begins.

This is a big responsibility. This issue has been hotly debated in Montague for over fifty years. There has been a school in Montague Center for over 200 years. That history creates good traditions. These traditions seemed alive to me when I first went to Montague Center School with my son. On that day Anna Garbiel, the school principal and daughter of a legendary local farmer, was working in the garden in front of the building.

Call me a romantic if you will. I like new buildings well enough. But give me those traditions that make a school a community. I believe we should renovate Montague Center School and make that history available to everyone in the district.

Reporting Live from the Siege of Oaxaca

BY CHUCK COLLINS
OAXACA, MEXICO - As you may have heard, since May 22nd there has been a massive teacher's strike in Oaxaca, Mexico, with 70,000 teachers on strike from around the state. They have traveled to Oaxaca, the state capitol where we live, and set up a *planton* (temporary shelter) encampment in the downtown area, especially on streets around the *Zocalo* (the plaza), and on the *Zocalo* itself.

The teachers are demanding a 5.5 percent pay increase, 1.5 percent benefits increase, free books for secondary students and breakfasts for poor children, particularly in the countryside. Oaxaca teachers are among the worst paid in the country.

The teachers are militant. They close down streets, block banks, gas stations and generally disrupt things. On many occasions, we have walked around the encampments and seen the teacher locals discussing negotiations and actions. It is a rather awesome display of organization and people power.

However, things took a violent turn last Wednesday, June 14th at 4:30 in the morning, when governor Ulises Ruiz sent in 3,000 state

troops to clear away the demonstrators.

They shut down two radio stations that were broadcasting news about the strike. There were dozens of injuries, pitched fighting in the streets, tear gas and blockades. There are conflicting reports on fatalities.

Those of you who have experienced the beauty of Oaxaca would be stunned by the chaos and destruction, broken windows, and streets tom up to make barricades.

The demonstrators responded on Wednesday afternoon and Thursday by reoccupying the *Zocalo* area and holding a massive demonstration on Friday, with crowds estimated between 200,000 and 400,000 people (see the link below for amazing photos of the battle of the *Zocalo*).

Teachers have been joined by other unions and campesino organizations calling for the resignation of the governor, a PRI crony who was elected two years ago with serious allegations of fraud. He says he will not resign - and so the



A month ago, some 70,000 teachers from throughout the state arrived and set up camp in tand around the *zocalo* in Oaxaca.

pressure will grow.

There are conflicting reports as to the role of the federal government, which has so far kept federal troops in the barracks.

In less than three weeks, Mexicans will vote in their presidential election. If the election is close, which all signs point to, there will be protests across the country. Add to this the likelihood that Mexico won't advance in the World Cup and you've got the ingredients for serious upheaval. (Don't underestimate the cultural power of soccer in Mexico!)

People have been predicting for years that Oaxaca was going to experience a revolution similar to Chiapas. The combination of

poverty, government corruption and domination by PRI, the old ruling party, has blocked necessary change.

Below is information from Amnesty International, and their call for faxes to urge the Oaxaca government to respect human rights.

An interesting blog with lots of photos, but some misinformation (for example, the teachers are not demanding a 100 percent pay increase. They want a 7 % pay increase): <http://markinmexico.blogspot.com/2006/06/bloody-day-in-oaxaca-mexico.html>

ACTION LINKS

Please help put international pressure on the political leaders of Mexico and Oaxaca by contacting the following men, demanding an end to the violence, for initiation of good-faith dialogue with the teachers' union, and for a respect for human rights in the resolution of this crisis.

Licenciado Vicente Fox Quesada
 Presidente Constitucional de los Estados Unidos de Mexico
 Telefono: 011 52 55 59 99 2800
 Fax: 011 52 55 52 77 2376
vicente.fox.quesada@presidencia.gob.mx

Lic. Ulises Ruiz Ortiz
 Gobernador del Estado de Oaxaca
gobernador@oaxaca.gob.mx
 Fax: 951-516-3737

Dr. Jose Luis Soberanes
 Presidente de la Comision Nacional de Derechos Humanos
 Fax: 011 52 55 56 81 71 99

Dr. Ricardo Sepolveda
 Director de Derechos Humanos de la Secretaria de Gobernacion
 Fax: 011 52 55 51 28 02 34

Chuck Collins, executive director of United for a Fair Economy, is a former resident of Turners Falls. He has lately shared space on the editorial page of the New York Times with Bill Gates, Sr., calling on Congress to halt effort to abolish of the Estate Tax.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO.

SCSC

Tired of that ugly patch of yard the grass just won't grow on? Beautify your property with a patio or walkway of pavers by Ideal.

Complete Masonry Supply

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

413-863-4322

Stop by and see our complete line of concrete or brick pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and much more.

Ideal

CopyCat PRINT SHOP

- full color offset printing
- digital copies
- oversize copies
- files accepted via email

We Specialize In Impossible Deadlines!

20 Years of Making Copies and Still the Original!

up-to-the-minute technology • old-fashioned personal service

180 Main Street, Greenfield • 413-774-3500 • greenfield@copycatprintshop.com

Sokolosky Realty

56 4TH STREET • TURNERS FALLS, MASS. 01376

OFFICE (413) 863-4393
 HOME (413) 367-9970
 FAX (413) 863-4949

Jean Donovan, CRS, ABR
 BROKER

Towns, Schools Do the Fiscal Limbo: How Low Can You Go?

BY PATRICK RENNICK

In the midst of a summer thunderstorm characterized by pouring rain and lightning flashes, town officials and school committee members from Montague and Gill met with the district school committee to discuss further plans for the FY'07 budget, which is currently facing a \$600,000 deficit.

The school committee presented a list of cuts that, ideally, would amount to \$313,000. These cuts were broken down with \$100,000 coming from the schools excess and deficiency fund, \$133,000 in personnel cuts, \$60,000 in unconfirmed state funding, and a possible savings of \$20,000 from turning off computers in the schools to save electricity. Personnel cuts included 1.5 positions from the English Language Learner Program, one Hillcrest kindergarten teacher, and two paraprofessionals.

After several meetings at town hall, Montague came up with a figure of about \$142,000 in cuts to assist the situation. Some of these cuts would be made to town personnel, including two DPW positions, the town nurse, and a fourth position that is still in question.

Ann Banash, a member of the Gill selectboard reported that her town is still facing an \$82,000 budget gap on their side of the river.

"We would prefer to not further reduce the budget," said Banash. "We need an override, or else we will be spending every penny of free cash we have. The only place we can cut is people."

Doug Dziadzio of the Montague capital improvement committee moved the discussion in a different direction.

"I have a hard time believing that the town will support these cuts when the school has only

made \$133,000 in personnel cuts on a \$16 million budget," he said.

Patricia Pruitt, chair of the Montague selectboard, responded to Dziadzio's comments.

"I don't know if I want to start measuring up gallons of blood here," she said. "I'm not interested in making sure everyone sheds an equal amount. I understand that we are all trying to sustain a coherent educational system."

"I'm just trying to point out that there is a significant population in Montague that will see it the way I'm presenting it," said Dziadzio.

Figures presented by town administrator Frank Abbonanzio showed that if the override had passed in Montague for \$600,000, a house in the town valued at \$175,000 would see an increase of 43 cents a day in

taxes. In comparison, a \$150,000 override would cost the same property 11 cents a day.

"We have worked like crazy for the last three years to raise revenue for the schools," said Mary Kociela, chair of the school committee. "Money is already going back to the taxpayers from our recent high school/middle school building project. Every teacher that we are forced to cut puts us in jeopardy."

Sue Gee, superintendent of the school district, discussed the effects of budget cuts three years ago to the district.

"From 2002 to 2004 we cut 40 positions," said Gee. "Since then, only seven of these have been restored. I sent out 36 letters this year to people who now don't have jobs." Gee also expressed concern about losing

students if the information regarding the budget is not handled correctly.

"It is very important that we handle these cuts in a way that doesn't cause the exodus of students that happened before in our schools," she said. "If our schools lose, our community loses."

"Decimate the schools and the value of the houses will go right down with them," added Valeria Smith, chair of the GMRSD budget subcommittee.

The school committee will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday night at the Turners Falls High School in an effort to certify a new budget in time for the Gill town meeting on June 26th. Additional budget confabs are scheduled Friday and Monday. A special town meeting will be held in Montague on July 12th.

CRECHE

continued from pg 1

ble appeared on the Green for roughly six weeks each year (in late November and December). For some thirty years, the Town had erected the crèche, disassembled it, and stored the components. In or around 1973, however, two fraternal organizations -- the Knights of Columbus and the Masons -- assumed responsibility for these tasks.

There is evidence that the display of the crèche long has been a source of friction within the town, and that some residents complained bitterly about its presence on the Green. For the most part, however, the regulations, insofar as they pertained to the crèche at all, seem to have been honored more in the breach than in the observance. Despite the fact that the regulations have required a permit for a religious display of this type since at least 1982, no permit ever was sought or demanded prior to the erection of the crèche in any year before 1999.

Beginning in the fall of 1998, the issue was repeatedly

discussed at the Board's meetings. A group consisting of clergy and citizens with various viewpoints was formed to study the problem and suggest solutions. This committee reported to the Board on September 27th, 1999. It unanimously concluded that "private citizens do have the right to have religious observances on the common land within guidelines established by the town," but suggested that a shortened display period might be a reasonable compromise. For the 1999 season, the owners of the crèche, including the Knights of Columbus, agreed to a display period of three weeks.

Subsequent to the Board's decision to allow the three-week display, it began receiving requests to allow a wide range of other religious structures on the Green for comparable periods. One group desired to place a sign near the crèche indicating some citizens' objections to its presence on public land. Other applicants requested permission for a display honoring witchcraft at Halloween and for the erection of a pyramid to honor the Egyptian Sun God Ra during the month of April. Yet

another resident inquired about the possibility of erecting a Sukkah, an open hut-like structure, to commemorate the Jewish harvest festival of Sukkoth.

The minutes of the Board's meetings reveal a keen awareness that if it continued to allow a display of the crèche, many of these competing applications would have to be granted. The Board thus believed that it was on the horns of a dilemma: it could not constitutionally pick and choose among competing applications, but granting them all likely would compromise the aesthetic and historic elements of the Green. After seeking legal advice, the Board modified the rules governing use of the Green in several ways. First, it limited permit eligibility for public expressions on the Green to active events of less than eight hours in duration. Second, it restricted displays of a ceremonial nature to those 'in connection with special events and limited in duration to the period required for such events.' Third, it added an explicit prohibition against 'placement on the Green of any unattended structure.'

JOHN DEERE SAFES

ULTIMATE SECURITY IN THE
CONVENIENCE OF YOUR HOME



- Good for 30 minutes in 1200 degrees
- Heat Activated Seal Door
- UL listed for Residential Security
- Pre-Drilled for Bolt-Down Security
- 23 cubic feet to 35 cubic feet in stock
- Range of Colors; Adjustable Interiors



JOHN DEERE

SIRUM EQUIPMENT

Route 63, Montague

413-367-2481

EMU OIL
life just got better

Thurs. Fri. Sat.
12n-6pm
413 863-2700

Joint & Muscle Pain
Psoriasis & Eczema
Anti-Aging Products
Sun Burns & Rashes

Songline Emu Farm
66 French King Hwy, Gill

www.allaboutemu.com

LIEBENOW AUTO BODY

"WE DO THE COMPLETE JOB"

- Insurance Collision Repairs
- We Accept All Insurance Companies
- Auto Glass Replacements
- Shop Rental Car
- Frame & Unibody Straightening

LOCAL PICK-UP
& DELIVERY

Mass Repair Shop #1839

774-4420
163 WELLS STREET
GREENFIELD

Quality Work on All Makes & Models
Towing & Rental Cars Arranged



54 Amherst Rd.
Sunderland, MA
413.665.3782

ASE certified auto repair,
backed by a nationwide
NAPA warrantee.
Free complete vehicle
inspection
10% off labor on any
vehicle service with
this ad
Sunoco products
distributed by A.R. Sandri



Northfield Barber Shop

Mon. Noon-5 - Tues.-Fri. 8-5 - Sat. 8-Noon

74C Main Street • Northfield
413-498-5166

Simply Computing

computer set-up
training
QuickBooks

Debbe Dugan
774-5451

Your Pace at Your Place



CUSTOM SAWING • PORTABLE BANDSAW MILL

quist road lumber

HOURLY RATES
WILL COME TO YOU
FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE

BANDSAW REDUCES WASTE
SAW UP TO 30 IN. X 24 FT. LOGS
SMALL JOBS OK

mikar65@earthlink.net

MICHAEL IDOINE • WENDELL, MA • 978-644-2623

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Progress of Town Center Projects

BY JOSH HEINEMANN - At Wendell's June 14th selectboard meeting town coordinator Nancy Aldrich had forwarded a letter about trace amounts of toluene detected in the new town well, which will supply drinking water for the new town office building and library. The letter, written by Jeff Holts of Huntley Associates, designers of the town water supply, said Holt had discussed the toluene with Mike McGrath of DEP; McGrath said the concentration found, 0.59 parts per billion is less than 1/1,000 of the state drinking water standard, 1,000 ppb and he suspects its source was the electrical tape used by the drillers, and it will be flushed out quickly.

The water system design should be ready to go out for bid by early July, which will allow Davenport Construction to bid on it, and, if their bid is accepted, do the work while their equipment is still in town for the septic system work.

Huntley Associates suggested it would save money and trouble to have one pressure tank and switch for all the town facilities

and located near the well rather than a tank and switch for each building. That tank would go in a vault and that vault would have to be water tight because it has to be below the frost line, which is also below the water table.

Selectboard member Dan Keller reported that everyone necessary had signed the building permit for the center construction. A change order for Davenport Construction was still within the budget, and value engineering had been done to keep the price down, mostly by postponing jobs that can be done later by the town.

Hal Stowell, of Jennison Road, made an unscheduled appearance, with a complaint about frequent trash burning in his neighborhood. He said he frequently could smell outdoor burning in a trash barrel. He asked that the town at least send out a mailing extolling the virtues of the WRATS, and of recycling. The town newsletter is not out yet and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich agreed to include a note about recycling.

Board chair Ted Lewis said he would talk with fire chief Everett

Ricketts about the situation, and have him contact Aldrich about exactly what the law says. Outdoor burning is allowed only from mid-January through April and only brush may be burned even then, no trash or construction debris. Keller said if the problem continues, Chief Ricketts may speak directly with the person or people who are doing the burning. He added, "I like his approach better than what I would do."

The Class III automobile salvage license hearing for Robin Pierce's property on Stone Road was continued to the June 28th meeting at 7:30 p.m. because of a snag in the closing of the property's sale.

Stowell offered to rehabilitate the picnic table in the gazebo, or maybe build a new one.

Lewis said that highway boss Dan Bacigalupo had returned home from the hospital after going in on Sunday.

Aldrich said that town accountant Janet Swem had found the highway department account had been overdrawn by \$1,200. The WRATS account has pennies. Lewis said he would ask

Bacigalupo and highway commissioner Harry Williston for an estimate of how much money the road crew needed to finish the fiscal year.

Extra pumping took place at the town hall tight tank following a toilet leak that ran continuously for days before it was discovered and the water was shut off. Lewis said that Whittier Plumbing is supposed to clean the toilet tanks annually which should make them seal securely after every flush. Also people who use the town hall should be reminded to shut off the water as part of closing the building.

The board members signed a memorandum of agreement with FRCOG which is paying for new two-way radios for the police and fire departments. They also signed a memorandum of understanding with Franklin County Solid Waste District for WRATS hauling services.

The town owns a truck that was on a property taken for back taxes, and is preparing to auction that along with the windows that come out of the old town office building. Keller asked Aldrich to

set up a date for the auction once the windows are safely out of the building.

Nina Keller agreed to be representative to the FRCOG until she cannot do it any more. Lewis, as chair of the selectboard agreed to remain representative to FRTA.

Aldrich had received a letter from Adele Penniman Smith suggesting that librarian Rosie Heidkamp's hours be increased to compensate her partially for the tremendous effort she has put into the new library building. Lewis agreed that Heidkamp had done much more than she had been paid for, but argued that other people had also done extra without pay, and that what was done for one should be done for all. Keller suggested the selectboard send a letter back to Penniman Smith, and thought the new library might be able to offer increased hours (to Heidkamp).

A warrant of eighteen articles was posted for the town meeting, which took place June 21st. Finance committee figures show that revenue from new growth will compensate for the loss of PILOT money.

Gill Holds Pre-Town Meeting

BY PHILIPPE DEGUISE

Under the threat of stormy skies Monday evening (6/19), about 20 residents, department heads and selectboard members from Gill attended a pre-town meeting to discuss the warrants for the annual town meeting on June 26th. While attendees discussed noise regulations and property assessments, the sky outside turned into a painter's pallet of purples and pinks. The warm glow of the sky reflected on the atmosphere of collaboration the small group sustained while dedicating itself to the issues at hand.

Nevertheless, the threat of an override still hung over the meeting, with the major unknown the size of the Gill-Montague school assessment. As budget negotiations on the schools drag on, Gill is preparing a budget for the 26th plugging in last year's school assessment as a working figure (\$1,095,041), though town officials acknowledge this figure is likely to head upward once an '07 school budget is finalized. Using last year's school assessment, the town will be able to complete a budget within the levy limit, for now.

If expected cuts to the '07 school

budget materialize, the town will find itself about \$40,000 to \$50,000 over the levy limit. In this case, the town will exercise one of two options, said administrative assistant Deb Roussel, either to apply the entire amount remaining in free cash or to go for an override.

With these weighty financial questions hanging in the balance, pre-town meeting turned to the question of property assessments, specifically the steep property tax rate increases for homeowners along the river during the past few years. Article 14 of the warrant asks residents to allocate the sum of \$60,626.72 "to provide for full recollection of data, purchase or upgrade software, provide conversion of data, and training and services related to mandated triennial certification for the assessor's office." Part of the funds are to be transferred from monies set aside for a boiler at Gill Elementary which is not needed (\$25,000) as well as from appropriated funds already set aside for a revaluation by the Assessor's office (\$11,009.67).

According to Greg Snedeker of the assessor's office, recollection of

data would involve the complete revaluation of every residential and commercial property in Gill. He said this has not been done in years and that some of the existing data is inaccurate, resulting in unfair tax assessments for some property owners. Snedeker says he wants to provide everyone in town a fair shake and an updated, efficient system. "We have gotten further and further behind," he said, adding that some properties have not been revaluated for the past fifteen to twenty years.

While no one in attendance seemed to object to the article, it may be subject to further budgetary scrutiny at town meeting next week. In the meantime, Snedeker has already spoken to two firms regarding real estate data collection and is awaiting other responses from interested parties.

West Gill Resident Seeks Peace and Quiet in Turners

However, the issue which garnered the most interest was not financial, but regulatory in nature. This is the proposed Excessive Noise bylaw, Article 9 on the warrant. The bylaw reflects an initial

effort by the selectboard to address excessive noise in town, in particular from such sources as ATVs, snowmobiles, dirt bikes and other recreational sources. A violation of the bylaw is defined as "a continuing regular or repeated source of noise for greater than a fifteen minute duration," which must be "plainly audible at said distance of 200 feet."

One resident from West Gill Road said she was repeatedly annoyed by excessive noise near her home and urged residents to support the bylaw in some form. She complained of racing and screeching noises coming from dirt bikes and ATVs. "You can't think in our house. It shakes.

The foundation shakes. We have had to leave our house," she said. She spoke of driving to Turners Falls for some peace and quiet.

According to the resident, she has spoken about the problem with the neighbors in question, but the situation has only gotten worse. "I know it's not the only noise problem in Gill. The police have to have laws to enforce," she added.

"The noise bylaw will be a nightmare for everyone," said

police chief David Hastings. While he supports such an effort in general and understands the frustration of residents confronted by excessive noise, he is concerned about the challenge of enforcing the bylaw. "What you consider harsh and disturbing is not disturbing to someone else," he said.

Hastings pointed to the possibility of neighbors using the bylaw against other neighbors to fuel ongoing disputes.

Attendees voiced concerns about specific wording in the bylaw, in particular to the fifteen-minute requirement. "How do we address the fifteen minute necessity?" asked Peter Conway. Others asked if the bylaw only affected recreational vehicles and how to specify those without limiting their usage under normal conditions.

Selectboard member Ann Banash told residents her board had reviewed a number of noise bylaws to come up with the initial draft. She promised to revise the language for next week's town meeting.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Specializing in unique hair designs

Bella
THE SALON

312 MONTAGUE CITY ROAD 774-4003

Stylists seeking booth space encouraged to call!

THE TEXTILE CO. INC.
Retail Fabric Store


- Cotton • Silks • Polyesters • Vinyls • Upholstery Material
- Quilting Supplies • Patterns • Calicos • Notions

CASH & CHECKS ONLY
Mon.-Sat. 9-5:20, Fri. til 8:20 • Closed Mon. - June, July, August

Power Square
Greenfield (413) 773-7516

Dillon
CHEVROLET
54 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 729
GREENFIELD, MA 01302

CHARLENE MARTIN
Sales Representative
(413) 773-3678



CORVETTE
AMERICAN
EVOLUTION

FARM
continued from pg 1

business to reflect the agricultural values of these and other Native American people. Here, the plants are not necessarily divided into rows by species. Corn, beans, and squash are all, in fact, inter-planted, each helping the other grow into healthy, edible vegetables. The corn is planted first, and allowed to grow a little; then, beans are planted around them, so their tendrils can climb the length of the corn as they grow. Later, squash will be planted around the corn and beans, which pro-

vide them with shade and moisture. This system mirrors the manner in which these vegetables were raised before the appearance of European settlers on the land, and illustrates the Three Sisters Farm's approach to agriculture.

"We're growing everything," said Kainen. Right now, peppers, zucchini, peas, melons, broccoli, tomatoes, and potatoes are just some of the crops found on the farm. The potatoes, especially, are a favorite of Kainen's. "We've devoted a lot of space to the humble potato." The potato may be suffering from undue modesty, however: "You put one

in the ground, wait three months, then pull out twenty."

Perhaps the most remarkable part of their enterprise is that Kainen and Fair are farming this land on their own. Two people, two acres, six days a week. Neither of them started out in farming. Fair, who now has over fifteen years of farming experience, was a printer, and Kainen an inside sales rep, both in Eastern Massachusetts. They started their first farming endeavor together in Boston in 2003. "I went from three-



Growth is abundant at Three Sisters Farm in Montague. Kainen and Fair work to preserve history by planting heirloom and Native American seeds.

piece suit to denim overalls," Kainen stated cheerfully. As she said, they are interested in, "Owning a business providing genuine, environmentally sustainable service, not solely for profit."

They want to "preserve the way things were done in this part of the world," said Kainen. To do this, they use two types of seeds unlike those in use in commercial farms.

The first of these is heirloom seeds. An heirloom seed is a seed "whose breeding can be traced back to Europe," according to Kainen. These seeds are important because they are "bred for taste." Today, "everything in supermarkets is bred for shipping." Thus, supermarket vegetables have tougher skins, and some of their flavor has been sacrificed for storage ability,

resilience to temperature change, and the like. Heirloom seeds produce food bred for flavor in a time when there was no shipping, because each family farmed for itself. "We want to eat yummy food," Kainen explained, "and preserve old ways."

The second kind of seed they use is also preserved from older days. Native American seed varieties are important because they are the actual, original crops to be grown in this area. Corn, beans, squash, and tobacco seeds of this type were provided to the Three Sisters Farm by the Friends of the Wissatinnewag.

"We're dedicated to preserving European and indigenous food heritage," said Kainen.

They found Montague, and the land they now farm, through the Mt. Grace Land Trust, an

organization dedicated to open farm space. The Three Sisters Farm is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) organization; customers own shares in the farm, and thus get a percentage of the produce, which is grown and picked for them. CSAs allow a one-on-one relationship between the shareowners and the farm, and provide those shareowners with fresh produce all season long. The Three Sisters Farm is capable of supporting the fresh produce needs of 10 to 20 members.

Currently, Fair and Kainen are working on expanding their farmstand. They are at the Greenfield Farmers Market on Saturdays, and also get business from people who see their website, www.threesistersfarm.com, and who drive by their stand on Greenfield Road, just north of the intersection with Hatchery Road. They also hope to involve the wider Montague community in Farm Day, on October 14th, which is an event to get the community involved in winter production.

Far from being idle in the winter, the farm will produce greens, as well as storing crops such as potatoes and onions. "Carrots and parsnips will be available all through the winter," added Kainen. "We want to make it known that fresh local food is absolutely available in the winter."

It seems the whole purpose of this farm is to make fresh local food available when people want it. From the look of the verdant green plants, patrolled by Logan and Esther, a pair of outdoor cats whose job is to protect the plants from voles, the enterprise is off to an excellent start.

Your Clear Choice
for
QUALITY VINYL REPLACEMENT WINDOWS
SUNRISE
(413)498-4318

Fully Insured
Free Estimates
Honest Work
Honest Prices!

Mass. Contractor Reg. #107141
Mass. License #059565



JOE GRAVELINE

Musty **COMFORTER?** Sandy **AREA RUG?**
or just **LOTS of Laundry?**

SUZEE SAYS: BRING IT ON.
THE BIG WASHERS ARE BACK!

THIRD ST. LAUNDRY
1500176

Always Hot Dryers!

Suzee's Gear for sale at : www.suzeesthirdstlaundry.com

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

HOME BUYERS WANTED

You Can Buy a House with **no money down!**
Call Tim for your free Pre-Application analysis.

Call 1-413-773-8984
Tim Prevost Loan Officer

NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Only homeowners are eligible. All loans are subject to credit approval & property review. Programs subject to change without notice.

Windy Hollow Veterinary Clinic

Amy Plavin, D.V.M.
Route 47 • Montague Center
413-367-0062
www.windyhollowvet.com

Small Animal Medicine • Surgery • Dentistry
Certified in Veterinary Acupuncture
Providing a holistic approach to veterinary care for your pet in a client friendly atmosphere.

Locally owned since 1941



Full service market
Local Produce in Season

70 Allen Street Greenfield, MA Beer & Wine 413-773-1100
FAX 413-773-1105

REAL ESTATE
BENCHMARK & PRATT



YETTER BUSINESS CENTER
525 Bernardston Road
Greenfield, MA 01301
(413) 774-1221
bernie@benchmark-pratt.com

Bernie Monkiewicz
Realtor

413-256-6217


fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

COUNTRY OIL
SINCE 1986
HEATING-COOLING-PLUMBING

540 Northfield Rd., Bernardston 1-800-327-9992
www.countryoil.com 413-648-9912

Annual Heating System Cleaning
Plumbing Repairs
LICENSED TECHNICIANS
#M10588 (MA)



A Custom Touch
Interior / Exterior Painting & Home Repairs

Anthony C. Tucker: 863-4833
70 Oakman Street, Turners Falls

Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL

Serving the Area for over 25 years Certified • Bonded • Insured

We Install all Types of Locks & Entry Devices for Businesses and Homes

- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- We Master Key & Re-Key
- Safe Combinations Changed

28 Montague Street
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Beeper 290-1162
863-2471
Fax 863-8022

Barlow Landscaping, Excavating & Paving, Inc.
Bryan Barlow, CEO



Demolition
Seal Coating
Treework
Construction Services
Septic Systems
Paving
Snow Plowing, Sanding

P.O. Box 386
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413-772-2155
Emergency Mail box 896-2765

SOFTBALL
continued from pg 1

leaving them to die on third each time. Gattuso will be a formidable foe in years to come.

But Girard more than made her match on Saturday, striking out 11, walking one, and giving up just three hits. The game marked the culmination of an incredible career for Girard with the Turners squad, bringing home a Western Mass record three consecutive state trophies. It marked Girard's sixth straight state tournament victory, and her 25th win of the year. During the last three years of post-season play, Girard pitched 10 shut outs, with an unbelievable 0.2 ERA. When the heat is on, she shines like steel.

Girard also helps her team's cause tremendously in the batter's box, and Saturday's game was no exception. In addition to her two-out triple to left center in the first, Girard beat out a shallow one-hopper to short to lead off in the bottom of the sixth. She nearly went three for three, with a well-placed drive to right that North Reading's Tara Maltacea barely managed to field in the web of her glove, running hard. Girard finished the season as the team's leading hitter, with a .470 batting average.

On the pitcher's mound, Girard put the North Reading team down in order in the first two innings. In the top of the 3rd with one away, Girard gave up a single on a 3-2 pitch to Carey Frasca, who advanced when catcher Kim Lastowski's pick-off to Allison Murphy at first went wild. Frasca made it to third on a sacrifice, but died there when Girard forced the next batter into an infield grounder.

With two out in the top of the fourth, North Reading courtesy runner Amanda Poplaski, in for Reading power hitter Stephanie Mayne, (who managed only a measly grounder to right off Girard, despite her much-touted eight season home runs), got caught in a pickle off third when the throw from the catcher got past Chelseigh St. Peter. Shortstop Sara Ambo recovered the ball as Poplaski hesitated part way to home, but there was no going back for her. With Lastowski blocking the plate, Ambo ran the runner down and put the tag on her.

Top of the fifth, lead-off Reading batter Meghan Chase tagged the first pitch in the hole between third and short, but Ambo just managed to snag it. Off balance, she fired to first, but the throw was six feet off the mark and in the dirt. In



Coach Gary Mullins improved his phenomenal career won/loss record to 425-113

a play that would have made Willie McCovey proud, Murphy stretched to the throw until she lay prone in the dirt with her toe on the bag, the ball in her glove and one runner down. Girard gave up a hit to Melisa Bianchi, a weak fly ball that managed to drop fair down the left field line, before retiring the side.

In the top of the sixth, trailing one to nothing, Reading was feeling the pressure. Girard, who confessed to nerves going into the game, had steadied in the later innings, and would have struck the side out in order but for a passed ball on the third strike to shortstop

Victoria Carroll. Lastowski recovered the ball and fired to first, but Carroll never got there, throwing her helmet down in the dirt in tears and kicking it back to the dugout. The home plate ump called for booing fans to "Keep it positive!" as he dusted off the plate.

After Girard's lead-off single in the bottom of the sixth, Gattuso, never let up the pressure. She took the next three Turners batters down in order. With thunder rolling in the distance, North

Reading had payback in their eyes as they got their final chance in the top of the seventh. Sciolio battled Girard to a two and two count, then smacked a hard drive toward second. Kellie Lastowski bobbed it, Sciolio was on, and the Reading fans went wild.

Here's where the true mettle of Julie Girard began to shine. She took a bead on Mikaela Carney. Sciolio stole second as Girard took Carney down swinging on a 1-2 count. Next batter up, Chase, fouled one off, then hit a sharp one-hopper to Girard, who threw her out at first. Sciolio advanced to third. Bedlam in the bleachers. Two-out and tying run on third. Coach Mullins, pacing. Bianchi, nervous in the service, got a pat on the batting helmet from the Reading coach. She's up there eyeing the tigress on the mound, thinking, "I could be the hero, or I could be the goat." But it's not a good idea to think too much when you're facing Julie Girard. Like more than 750 batters before her during Girard's brilliant career with Turners, Bianchi went down for the count.

Girard followed the path of her last pitch and hurtled herself into the arms of Kim Lastowski. Steady as ever, Lastowski caught her in mid-air, and the entire team descended on their captains for a group hug and a screaming victory lap.

Asked how he felt to see his star throw her last pitch, coach Gary Mullins (with a career record of 425 - 113, and a winning streak of 56 consecutive victories powered by the strength of Girard's right arm) muttered laconically, "I'm just glad it was a strike."

After a big hug between the winning coach and his winningest pitcher, Mullins expanded a bit on Girard's talent. "She's just phenomenal. I'm not going to replace this kid. Dani (Sullivan) will pitch next year and she's a wonderful kid. And we'll compete again." Coach, the fans can't wait.

For her part, Girard gave credit where it was due. Referring to the clutch 5th inning triple, Girard said, "Ashleigh made a terrific play. She's going to go a long way. She's a superstar for us! When it's clutch time, BANG! That's what she's all about."

On a sober note, as she went into Saturday's game, Girard said, "I was thinking about what this would mean. The last game, win or lose. It's so sad. It's been an amazing ride."

Along with the hundreds of fans who have watched her on that ride, George F. Bush, former Turners baseball, basketball and football coach, had this to say about Girard's four-year run.

"After living in Turners Falls all my life, and being associated with sports from the 30s on, my opinion is Julie Girard is the greatest athlete that Turners has ever had in a single sport. (He handed the mantle of greatest all-around Turners Falls athlete to his brother, Lou, a four-sport athlete at Turners Falls in the 30s, who went on to play football at Mass State [now UMass] in Amherst, where he was ranked the leading scorer in the country for college play.) But he would take nothing away from the credit due to Girard.

"Look at what she accomplished. She made everything so exciting. She made so many people want to watch her. She was under so much pressure to win games, and she never let anybody down. On a three-year winning streak, with media covering her every move, newspapers, TV cameras, her response has been unbelievable. Two no-hitters, and then she didn't give up a single run in post-season play. She's remarkable."

Girard finished her final season at Turners with 229 strikeouts against only 18 walks, giving up 45 hits in 142 innings pitched. Next year, she will attend Holy Cross in Worcester.

Congratulations!

TFHS Girls Softball Team

2006 Division III MIAA State Champions!

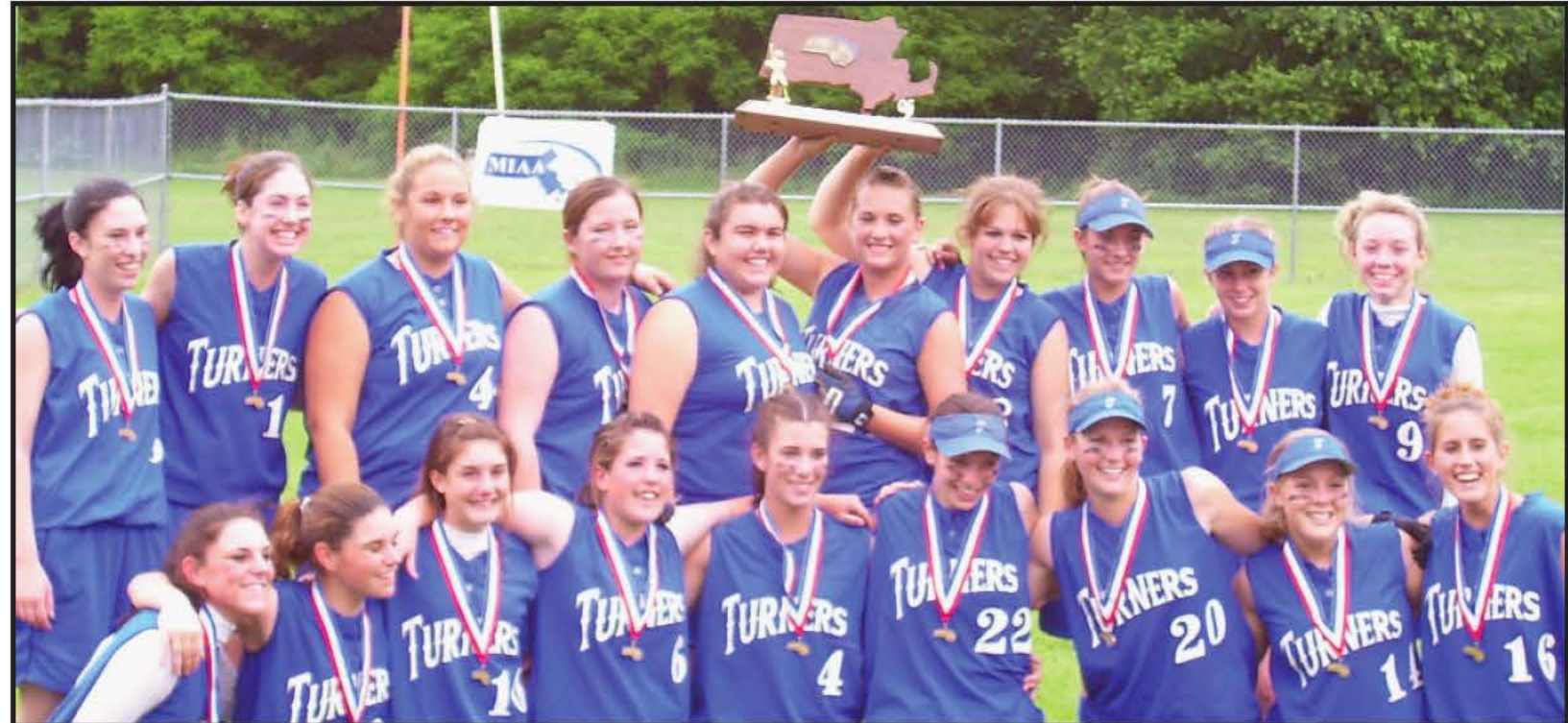


PHOTO COURTESY OF LEON AMBO

"My opinion is Julie Girard is the greatest athlete that Turners has ever had in a single sport."

-George F. Bush
Turners Falls



Country Oil
540 Northfield Road, Bernardston
648-9912

Hillside Plastics
262 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls
863-2222

Suzee's 3rd Street Laundry
84 3rd Street, Turners Falls
Open 6 a.m. - 10 P.M. (365 days)

Booska's Flooring
169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-3690

A. H. Rist Insurance, Inc.
159 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-4373

Southworth/Esleek Papers
36 Canal Street, Turners Falls
863-4326

Sirum Equipment Co. Inc
310 Federal Street, Montague
367-2481

Montague Webworks
www.NetSiteServer.com
863-0030

St. Stanislaus Society
6 K Street, Turners Falls
863-0187

Green Fields Market
144 Main Street, Greenfield
773-9567

Jay K's Liquors
59 Avenue A, Turners Falls
Congratulations on the 3-peat!

Plow Frau & Bow Wow
Sita Lang
834-PLOW (7569)

Rt. 63 Roadhouse
32 Federal Street, Millers Falls
659-3384

Greenfield Savings Bank
195 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-4316

Montague Elks Lodge
1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls
863-2521

Renaissance Builders
P.O. Box 272, Turners Falls
863-8316

Rau's Auto
531 Turners Falls Road, Montague
367-2475

From all Your Friends and Supporters at the former Sweeney Ford
Founded in Turners Falls

Songline Emu Farm
66 French King Highway, Gill
www.allaboutemu.com

www.MontagueMA.net
Congratulates the Girls Softball Team
Woo-Hoo!!!

Turners Falls Permanent Firefighters
Congratulates the Team!
863-9023

Geri Johnson & Associates, Realtors
66 French King Highway, Gill
863-9736

Equi's Candy Store
125 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-9588

Couture Bros.
187 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-4346

Franklin Grocery & Package Store (Prondecki's)
1 West High Street, Erving
423-3907

Montague Police Association
863-8911

Pipione's Sport Shop
101 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-4246

Northfield Barber Shop
Congratulations!
413-498-5166

Jack Nelson at Carriage House Designs
65 Canal Street, Turners Falls
863-9299

Eastern Weatherization
Turners Falls
863-9409

The Smokin' Hippo
20 French King Highway, Erving
413-423-3220

Brick House Community Resource Center
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls
863-9576

Ink & Paint Printing
40 Industrial Blvd, Turners Falls
863-8615

Renaissance Excavating
Main Road, Gill
863-4462

Connecticut River Internists
8 Burnham Street, Turners Falls
774-5554 / 774-3751

HallKeen Management, Inc.
Powertown Apartments
152 Avenue A Turners Falls 863-9433

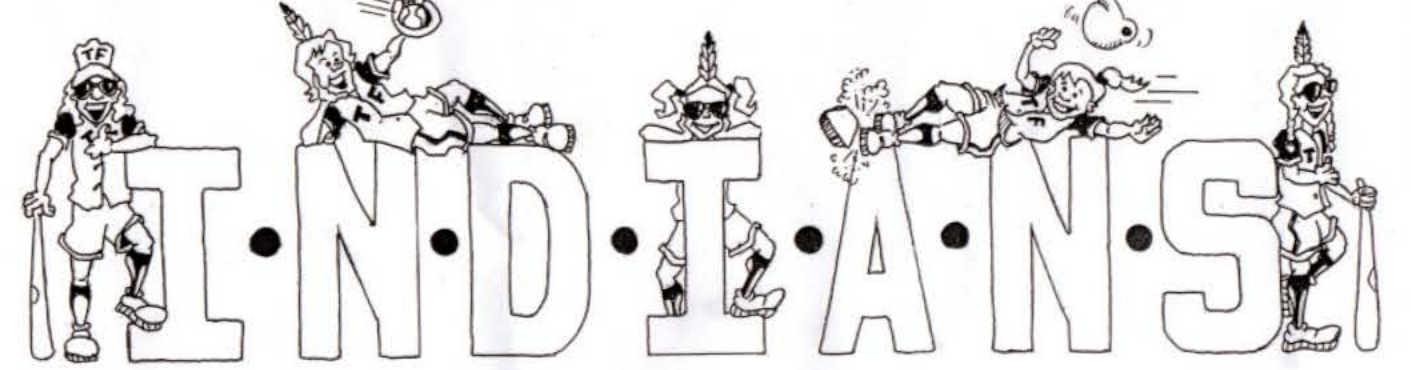
Al and "Puff" Dray
Your Dedicated Fans from Deerfield,
Wow!!!

Ed's Barbershop
115 Avenue A, Turners Falls
863-2085

THE GILL STORE
REGAL REAL ESTATE
TIM DE CHRISTOPHER



HOW DO WE SPELL DYNASTY ?



DENIS BORDEAUX CARTOON

THE GILL GOURMET

Sinfully Delicious Strawberry Rhubarb Cheesecake

BY JOE PARZYCH -

You have a couple of choices with this recipe. You can go the sinful route or take the holier-than-thou option. The sinful route involves the use of whole milk cheese and more eggs than you want to reveal to your doctor, or any other confessor, though I would resort to bribery with a slice of the sinful variety before divulging any sins, to be on the safe side. On the other hand, in a worst-case scenario with the sinful path, you will not be lonesome when you end up in the company of all your friends down there. The holier recipe will be listed first.

Holier-Than-Thou Strawberry Rhubarb Cheesecake

- 2 cups of rhubarb cut in 1/2 inch pieces
- 1 1/2 cups of sliced strawberries
- 2 cups of Splenda, (sugar substitute made from sugar)
- 2 eggs plus two egg whites
- 8 oz of fat free cottage cheese
- 8 oz of fat free cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons of corn starch
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla



Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Stir one cup of Splenda and cornstarch into the cut rhubarb and sliced strawberries. Heat in a saucepan until it softens a bit. Meanwhile, while you are hanging around waiting for the rhubarb to soften, dump the other cup of Splenda and all the other ingredients into a blender.

Blend well. Stop the blender, and stir in the rhubarb and strawberries. You don't have to go crazy, just swirl

it in so that folks can enjoy the chunks of rhubarb and strawberries.

Pour the mixture into one of those aluminum pie pans you've been collecting, and bake until the cheesecake is slightly brown and doesn't jiggle too much when shaken - about half an hour.

Cool and refrigerate overnight, or longer, to firm it up. Do not cheat by trying it right away!

Sinfully Delicious Strawberry Rhubarb Cheesecake

- 2 cups of rhubarb cut in 1/2 inch pieces
- 1 1/2 cups of sliced strawberries
- 2 cups of sugar
- 4 eggs
- 8 oz of whole milk cottage cheese
- 8 oz of full fat cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons of corn starch
- 2 shots of brandy - one for the cheesecake, and one for yourself.

Follow directions as in the first recipe, but use brandy instead of

vanilla, and pour the final mixture into a graham-cracker-crust-lined pie plate.

Bake the same way. With this recipe, you can cheat by trying it as soon as you like - you are going to hell anyways.

If the cheesecake does not turn out quite to your satisfaction, take another shot of brandy. It will enhance the flavor.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Hidden Beauty of Vegetable Gardens

BY FLORE

NORTHAMPTON - Were you fortunate enough to have seen the splendid exhibit at The Church Exhibition Gallery in Lyman Conservatory of Smith College that closed last week? If so, you explored the elaborate historical evolution of these precious quiet places we affectionately call gardens.

Moreover, the gardens featured were the oft forgotten ones, where we also grow our tasty nourishment - vegetables!

Feast Your Eyes, the Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens, a traveling show, is on loan from the horticul-

ture services at The Smithsonian. It covers a long world journey of 'tending one's own garden'...

From the Aztec Chinampas (or floating gardens) on the Island of Tenochtitlan, to following nature's whims as represented in English gardens, over soft rolling hills. Had you lived in the XVII century France, you could have experienced the embroidery-like feel of the French royal gardens. Jean Baptiste de la Quintinie along with Lenotre were responsible for these well groomed Baroque *jardins*. Their motto? "Beauty arises from geometrical neatness and

symmetry."

From Monticello, we hear Thomas Jefferson comment, "No culture [is] comparable to that of a garden... though an old man. I am a young gardener!"

The Victory gardens of World War I are also represented. Woodrow Wilson called on Americans to contribute to the war effort by planting food for the home front. Patriotism, in reality, ran along with the fear of food shortages!

The next stop for this eye-opening exhibit?

Plymouth Plantation, in Plymouth Massachusetts. Catch it if you can.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Stolen Goods

Friday 6-16

5:15 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Massasoit Street, Lake Pleasant, address. After investigation, no forced entry noted and nothing missing.

6:31 p.m. Report of a breaking and entering at a Prospect Street address. Jewelry was missing. Under investigation.

Saturday 6-17

1:18 p.m. Walk in to

station reported a bike stolen from an Avenue A address. Bike was later returned.

Monday 6-19

2:04 p.m. Caller with an animal complaint on Route 47. Caller was concerned for a dog's well-being. Officer checked and dog was fine.

Tuesday 6-20

10:35 a.m. Walk in to station reported a possi-

ble identity theft. Under investigation.

9:31 p.m. After a motor vehicle stop on Montague City Road by the Farren, [redacted]

[redacted] was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license.

Wednesday 6-21

7:44 a.m. Report of shoplifting at the Exxon on 3rd Street. Summons was issued.

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
 Plastic - Aluminum - Copper - Brass
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT
 Foreign and Domestic
 Cooling System Specialist
 Rte. 2, Gill
 863-4049 1-800-439-4049
 8-5 Mon-Fri (closed Sat.)

Acupressure Massage & Hypnotherapy

 Janet Masucci
 413-863-8694
 Nationally Certified in Therapeutic Massage Since 1993
 64 French King Highway, Gill, MA 01376

BAKER Office Supply
Bring in this ad and receive one free ream of copy paper!
 www.bakerofficesupply.com
 310 Main Street • Greenfield
 774-2345 **Call Bonnie today!**

KLONDIKE SOUND CO.
 CONCERT SOUND SERVICES
 PRO AUDIO SALES, RENTALS
 37 SILVIO CONTE DRIVE, I-91 INDUSTRIAL PARK
 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 VOX: 413-772-2900 • FAX: 413-772-2199
 www.klondikesound.com

Renaissance Excavating
 COMPLETE SITE WORK

 • SEPTIC & DRAINAGE SYSTEMS • SAND, GRAVEL & LOAM
 MAIN ROAD, GILL
 DOUGLAS EDSON (413) 863-4462

LAPINE MULTIMEDIA
 MOVIES, SLIDES, VIDEOS & MORE!
 CONVERTED TO DVD, VHS & OTHER FORMATS!

Bill & Kathy White
413-773-7747

Renaissance Builders
Stephen Greenwald
 PO Box 272
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 413/863-8316
 Fax 413/863-9712
www.renbuild.net

Pam Veith Real Estate

 Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
 ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
 REALTOR®
 75 Main Street
 Northfield, MA 01360
 Office: 413-498-0207
 Ofc. Fax: 413-498-0208
 Home Phone: 413-863-9166
 Home Fax: 413-863-0218
 Email: bedson1@comcast.net
"My Office is Always Open to You!"

A.H. Rist INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
 SINCE 1888
 159 Avenue A
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 email: stephan@ahrist.com
 web: www.ahrist.com
Stephan Smith Agent/Broker
863-4373

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Votes Monday on Conservation Land

BY CYD SCOTT - The Erving selectboard got started late this Monday, June 19th, because of thunderstorms. Once Jeff Dubay showed up to join Linda Downs-Bembury for a quorum, the board got involved in an animated discussion with members of the Erving conservation commission regarding the possible purchase of conservation land on Old State Road. If the town approves the land purchase - for \$800,000 - the conservation commission would be in charge of managing the recreational use of the land in perpetuity.

Voters will have a chance to vote the land purchase up or down at a special town meeting set for Monday, June 26th.

On the 19th, Jeff Dubay was vocal on the need for the town to acquire the land. "We need to purchase this land. The town doesn't have any protected land. We have to stop more development now. If someone wants to rehab an old place, great. But cutting perfectly good forest - and that's what will happen - is no good. Everybody wants to come here; we have the cash cow. Northfield Mountain will

pay [their taxes] for the rest of their lives."

Speaking of the Giniusz farm, the Old State Road property under consideration, Dubay said, "This is an old piece of town, and I don't want to see it covered with houses." According to Friends of Erving Open Space, a group of concerned residents dedicated to preserving the large parcel of undeveloped land, the property contains approximately 184 acres of forested property on Old State Road.

If purchased, approximately 168 acres of this parcel would become Erving's first and only conservation land. This acreage is located on the north side of Old State Road surrounding the existing farmhouse. The land would be open to the public for hiking and passive recreation. The remaining 16.7 acres, locat-

ed on the south side of Old State Road, would be reserved for future town use. The historic cemetery, which abuts the Giniusz farm, is the resting place of Revolutionary War veterans, and early settlers of Erving.

Downs-Bembury said, "I spoke with Jennifer Soper from the Division of Conservation Services in Boston. She was a great help. She said we are eligible for state reimbursement for a big chunk of the cost," of the conservation land.

Since the reimbursement, which could be in the range of 72% - 86%, would come from a state Self Help grant for permanently conserved land, for recreation or open space, the 16.7 acre parcel on the south side of the road will have to be approved by a separate town meeting article on the 26th.

administrative coordinator Tom Sharp will revise the warrant articles accordingly.

In other news: Anathy Minzi met with the board to ask for a business license to open a small car sales business in town. The board would like to determine what kind of class his business would fall into. There are three classes of car dealership licenses, each with different restrictions. The matter was tabled for determination at a later date.

Highway boss Paul Prest was given permission to approach the town of Northfield to see if they might be interested in purchasing a large mower with an extension arm for \$40,000. Finally, the board approved a sale of old books at the library on Saturday, June 24th from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. The books are one dollar a bag. See you there.

MCTV Schedule

Channel 17

Friday, June 23

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Turners Falls H.S. Graduation 2006
8:00 PM Internet Safety
10:00 PM Montague Update
11:00 PM Classic Arts Showcase

7:00 PM GMRSD Committee Meeting LIVE
10:00 PM Montague Update
10:30 PM Internet Safety
12:30 PM Classic Arts Showcase

Wednesday, June 28

Eagle All Day from 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Turners Falls Girls Softball Finals 2006
9:30 PM Franklin County Democrat
10:00 PM Montague Update
11:00 PM Discovery Center Presents: The Importance of Pollinators and Plants

Thursday, June 29

Eagle All Day from 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Montague Selectboard taped 6/26
9:30 PM Discovery Center Presents: Tracking Mammals
10:30 PM Grand Canyon Rapids
11:00 PM Memorial Day Parade 2006

MCTV offers Studio Tours and Orientations on the Second Wednesday of each month at 6 PM. The Public is welcome and encouraged to come down to the studio at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to see the MCTV studio and learn about the exciting opportunities MCTV has to offer Montague residents. Call 863-9200 for more information.

Saturday, June 24

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Discovery Center Presents: The Importance of Pollinators and Plants
8:00 PM Montague Update
9:00 PM Franklin County Democrat
9:30 PM The Grange Weed Walk

Sunday, June 25

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Turners Falls H.S. Graduation 2006
8:00 PM Internet Safety
10:00 PM Grand Canyon Rapids
10:30 PM Classic Arts Showcase

Monday, June 26

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM
7:00 PM Montague Selectboard LIVE
9:30 PM The Spirit of Lake Pleasant
11:00 PM GaiaVision
12:00 PM Classic Arts Showcase

Tuesday, June 27

Eagle All Day From 6:00 AM

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Be on Lookout for Armed Robber

Wednesday, 6 - 14

1:41 a.m. Report of suspicious noises coming from inside a barn at a Main Road residence. Checked, all OK.

1:53 a.m. Received Be On the Lookout advisory from the Brattleboro Police for subject wanted in an armed robbery from their town, handgun shown.

2:09 a.m. Possible vehicle matching above description observed on Route 10, vehicle pursued into New Hampshire, subject fled from on duty officer. Charged in New Hampshire with other crimes. Not involved with armed robbery in Brattleboro.

12:34 p.m. 911 call from Barton Cove Road, no problem found.

4:50 p.m. Checked the area of Mount Hermon Station Road for an emer-

gency alarm coming from an On-Star vehicle. Vehicle located, no problem.

Thursday 6-15

8:16 a.m. Report of loose pigs in the South Cross Road area.

4:30 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with investigation in their town.

Friday 6-16

1:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston police with traffic control for wires on fire, traffic diverted.

Saturday 6-17

12:43 a.m. Loud noise complaint at campground on Barton Cove Road. Subjects warned.

8:29 p.m. Alarm sounding at French King Highway business. All secure.

Sunday 6-18

10:30 a.m. Assisted with disabled vehicle on Gill-Montague Bridge, wrecker called to tow vehicle.

Monday 6-19

6:20 p.m. Responded to an altercation at intersection of Oak and Myrtle Street. Under investigation.

8:55 p.m. Criminal harassment report called into station, case under investigation.

Tuesday 6-20

4:19 p.m. Report of a three-vehicle accident on French King Highway near the long rest area. One subject taken to Franklin Medical Center. Citation issued for marked lanes violation.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Mary Lou Emond
CRS, GRI, CBR

COHN & COMPANY
Real Estate Agency

117 Main Street • PO Box 638
Greenfield, MA 01302-0638

413-773-1149 x142 • HOME: 413-863-4568
EMAIL: MARYLOU@COHNANDCOMPANY.COM

Negus & Taylor, Inc.
Monuments

People often come to see us because their parents and their grandparents did. We're proud to have that kind of loyalty, and we work hard to keep it.

- Gary and Nancy Melen

Where your purchase of a memorial is truly a testament of love

MAIN OFFICE 773-9552
10 Mill Street, Greenfield, MA

"The perfect remembrance"

POP creations

now that you've seen my work, why not get the benefits?

low rates • professional service • boysenh@aol.com
advertising • web graphics • logos • brochures • catalogs • cards • signs


www.boysenhodgson.biz

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Office Hours By Appointment



DANIEL COHEN, D.M.D.

4 Dell St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376
Telephone: (413) 863-9656

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS

REGAL

Real Estate & Modular Homes

Kyle Scott • Donald Bowman

Office (413) 863-9555 Fax (413) 863-9556

131 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Things to Know About Anesthesia



ILLUSTRATION: JESSICA HARMON

BY FRED CICETTI

LEONIA, NJ - Q. I'm a senior who's having surgery and the one thing that scares me more than anything else is the anesthesia. Can you tell me anything to reduce my fear?

There are probably several sources for your fear. The first is that you're older and wonder if you're at greater risk than someone younger. The second is that anesthesia can be dangerous to anyone. The third is that you'll lose total control when you're

under. I hope some of the facts about anesthesia will help with all of your fears.

Anesthesia is risky, but today it is safer than ever for all age groups. Your age is not as important a risk factor as your medical condition and the type of surgery you are having.

Safer drugs and major advances in the monitoring equipment doctors use in surgery have reduced anesthesia complications. In the last decade alone, deaths caused by anesthesia have dropped 25-fold, to 1 in 250,000.

In addition, shorter-acting drugs, more specific drugs and new intravenous drugs can minimize the nausea and vomiting that sometimes occur after anesthesia.

There are three main types of anesthesia: general, regional and

local.

General anesthesia makes a person unconscious so that the entire body is pain-free. Regional anesthesia is used to block sensation in one area of your body. Local anesthesia numbs a small part of your body.

General anesthesia is used for extensive surgeries. The drugs used in general anesthesia are given intravenously or are inhaled. They act as hypnotics, painkillers and muscle relaxants, and they block your memory of the surgery.

Regional anesthesia is injected around a single nerve or a network of nerves that branches out and serves an area. For example, spinal, epidural and caudal anesthesia are injected into or near the spinal fluid, effectively numbing nerves that serve the lower half

of your body.

Local anesthesia may be used to numb only a small area of nerves at the site where the surgeon plans to operate, such as for cataract surgery. Local anesthesia is also used for minor procedures such as skin biopsies and stitching a cut.

During local and regional anesthesia, patients often receive intravenous drugs for sedation so they can be comfortably drowsy during surgery and remember little of their time in the operating room.

Before your surgery, you can also expect questions from your doctors regarding your anesthesia. The following have to be considered: medical problems you might have, medications you take, whether you smoke or drink alcohol, any allergies you have,

previous negative experience with anesthesia, and adverse reactions to anesthesia by other family members.

The information collected by your doctors guides them in their treatment. For example, smoking or alcohol consumption can influence the way an anesthetic works in your body during surgery. Knowing whether you smoke or drink alcohol allows your anesthesiologist to choose anesthetics that are suited to you. And, some anesthetics include components of certain foods, such as albumin from eggs. Discussing food and drug allergies beforehand helps your anesthesiologist make important drug choices.

If you have a question, please write to fredcicetti@gmail.com.

FINDING BALANCE: HEALTH TIPS FOR A HAPPY LIFE

The Food of the Gods

BY JENNY CHAPIN

MONTAGUE CENTER - After writing two weeks ago about how awful sugar is, I cut it from my diet. Since chocolate was an item I consumed on a daily basis, I figure if I'm not eating it, at least I can write about it and thus enjoy it vicariously.

The word comes from Aztec, xocolatl, meaning "bitter water". Chocolate residue found in ancient Maya pots suggests that Mayans were drinking chocolate 2,600 years ago. Aztecs used cacao beans to prepare a hot, frothy beverage with stimulant and restorative properties, often spicing it with chili pepper. Believed to impart wisdom and vitality, chocolate was reserved for warriors, nobility and priests. Fermented as a drink, chocolate was used in religious ceremonies associated with the goddess of fertility.

The bitter compound in

chocolate is called theobromine, "food of the gods," which certainly seems appropriate here.

Xocolatl was said to be an acquired taste. A 16th-century missionary's account stated that it was "loathsome to such as are not acquainted with it, having a scum or froth that is very unpleasant to taste. Yet it is a drink much esteemed among the Indians, wherewith they feast noble men who pass through their country."

Chocolate was an important luxury good throughout pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, and cacao beans were often used as currency. The first recorded shipment of chocolate to Europe was in 1585. Europeans added sugar and milk to the beverage to counteract the natural bitterness, and replaced the chili pepper with vanilla. By the 17th century, chocolate was a luxury item among the European nobility.

Recent studies suggest that cocoa and dark chocolate may provide certain beneficial effects for human health, including cardioprotective properties. Some studies have observed a reduction in blood pressure after consuming approximately three ounces of dark chocolate daily. Consuming milk chocolate or white chocolate, or drinking milk with dark chocolate, appears to negate the health benefit. And don't forget that chocolate is calorie rich, so daily intake calls for increased exercise.

Chocolate is one of the foods highest in magnesium. Magnesium helps with calcium absorption, for strong bones and healthy heart; it also helps reduce stress and muscular tension. Chocolate cravings (especially for pre-menstrual women) may actually signify magnesium deficiency, which is best corrected with green vegetables,

whole grains, and beans.

Chocolate contains modest quantities of caffeine. It also contains tryptophan, an amino acid connected to the production of serotonin, which helps diminish anxiety. Chocolate consumption triggers the release of endorphins, hormones that bind to opiate receptors in the brain and reduce pain sensations.

Chocolate contains small quantities of the chemical anandamide (which is also produced naturally in the brain). The name comes from the Sanskrit word for bliss, as it induces a feeling of well-being.

Theobromine is toxic to horses, dogs, parrots, and cats because they are unable to metabolize the chemical effectively. For these animals, chocolate may cause epileptic seizures, heart attacks, internal bleeding, and death. Treatment involves inducing vomiting within two hours of ingestion, or



contacting a veterinarian. Dark chocolate has two to five times more theobromine than milk chocolate and thus is more dangerous for dogs. As dogs like the taste of chocolate as much as humans do, it should be kept out of their reach.

For us humans, though, it cannot be entirely coincidental that the compounds in chocolate have names connected to "bliss" and "god". If anything, it suggests to me that chocolate is a supreme food, designed by the Powers that Be with our happiness in mind. When chocolate is a regular part of my life, just thinking about it produces a measure of euphoria!

Jenny Chapin is an acupuncturist, bodyworker, and yoga teacher in Greenfield. Suggest a topic or question for her column at jgchapin@crocker.com.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE FOR ONLY \$7.00 PER WEEK (13 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

BOOKS & MORE
A wide selection of new books in all categories!
Teachers:
20% off educational materials
15% off all other books
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6; Sat 9-6; Sun 12-5
863-9417
74 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

THE COUNTRY JEWELER
Traditional and Contemporary Jewelry
Diamonds
Watches
Anniversary Bands
Custom repair work done on premises
Old-fashioned service!
Larry Pfeffer
772-0859
Mon.-Fri., 9:30-5:30
Sat. 9:00-5:00
www.countryjeweler.com
Corner of Main & Chapman Streets, Greenfield

Cup O' Joe
Espresso • Cappuccino • Lattes
Great Casual Atmosphere
Great coffee pastries and breakfast served all day
Deli sandwiches and wraps are available for lunch.
New Hours, Wireless Internet
Mon-Fri 8 to 2
Sat 7 to 2
Sun 8 to 2
111 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (413) 863-2800 / Zach Fellows - Owner

Patrick Smith
HIC #134741
Insured
Turners Falls, MA
Patrick@Mtdata.com
EASTERN WEATHERIZATION
Specializing in Cellulose Insulation and Vinyl Replacement Windows.
Toll Free 866-262-5361
413-863-9409
FAX 413-863-3530

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES
USABLE METALS
LAMP REPAIRS
LAMP PARTS
Just Things
We Buy Anything From a Pin To An Elephant
ARTHUR COHEN
413-498-5043
9 MT. HERMON RD.
NORTHFIELD, MA 01360

Big Bird Week in Montague

BY FRAN HEMOND

MONTAGUE CENTER - It was a big bird week. And a look at the new generation coming along. A walk by our river at Unity Park, inspired by Meg Bowman's delightful article in last week's *Montague Reporter*, was rewarded by an introduction to our old Goosey Gander's new friend. The river seemed empty of bird life, but close to the shore a few mallards combed the edges for crumbs. And there, in the company of a couple of Canada geese and their goslings, were the two bigger gray geese. The group was about to indulge in an interesting session of pecking order and maternal concern.

Perhaps it was in the mind of the observer, but in company of a similar bird, the old gray goose

did seem more part of the group.

His new friend seems to be a gray domestic goose, but has a black bill, with a bump and white stripes along its neck, in contrast to the yellow bill and shaded neck of the earlier resident. He is called an African goose by an expert.

A slice of bread sighted on a rock pile by the edge of the river attracted the geese. Our old gray goose nibbled a bit, then pulled it into the water where it floated.

He worked at the bread, then his new friend had a chance. These creatures with no hands and only

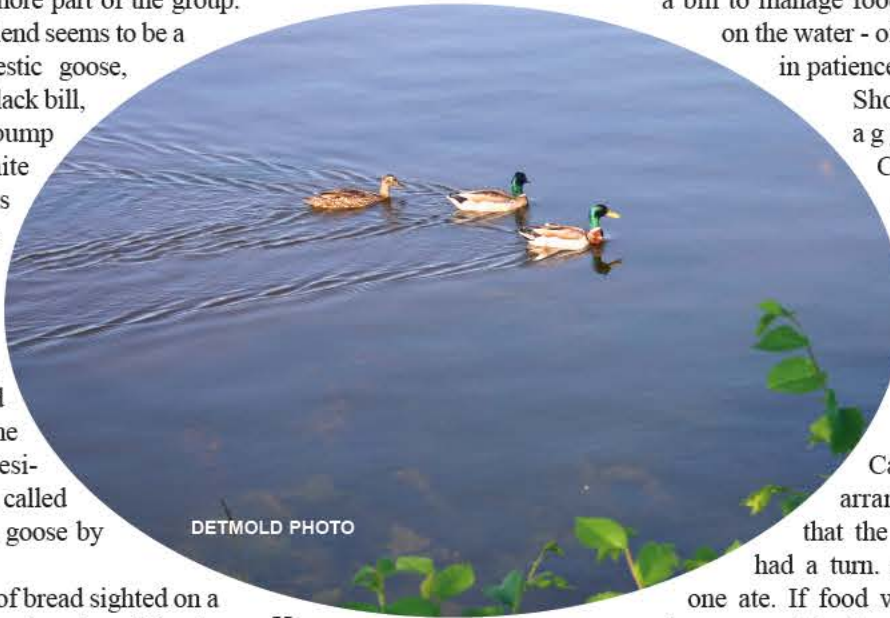
a bill to manage food - bobbing on the water - offer a lesson in patience.

Shortly, an aggressive Canada gosling put in a bid, and one of the

children on the bike path, with Barton Cove eagles often in view, the stop was most worthwhile.

A less dramatic sight had to do with the turkeys that frequent our town. In the winter there are groups up to thirteen scavenging the meadows and marching single file through the orchard. But on this late spring day, two gobblers were shepherding a haphazard group of little ones through brushy cover along the road home. Either the parents were young and incompetent or the kids ready to get out on their own, for the birds gobbled about with no apparent concern for their charges.

But then who is a person to judge the ethics of big bird behavior?



DETMOLD PHOTO

(left) Love triangle on Barton Cove

Canada geese arranged it so that the littler ones had a turn. And everyone ate. If food were scarce, the event might have been less amicable. Here at Unity Park, with families picnicking by our river, with bicyclers and their

Farmers Happy to See Sun After Nonstop Rain

BY RUTH WILLEY

GREAT FALLS - On a recent Wednesday, vendors at the Great Falls Farmers Market discussed the problems they had with their crops due to this spring's non-stop rains. Bob Johnson of Johnson Farm in

ularly. He said the large amount of rain posed problems for him, as much of the seed he planted either washed away or rotted in the ground. Raised beds help to offset some of the problems of too much rain, but not all. Too much wetness can

some sunshine and warm weather. While the weather affects how most of us spend our leisure hours, we should remember the growers whose livelihood depends on it.

The Great Falls Farmers Market runs Wednesday afternoons



When she isn't pumping gas at Rau's, Debi LeDoux may be found buying summer squash and cucumbers from Bob Johnson at the Great Falls Farmers Market on a Wednesday afternoon in Turners Falls.

Deerfield said too much rain holds everything back, and crops will be later than usual. Tomatoes and corn are two examples of vegetables customers expect at a certain time, but this year they may not appear on schedule. Although Johnson does grow squash in a greenhouse, it is still affected by the weather, and heating the greenhouse till later than usual added to his expenses this year. Also, too much humidity gives squash diseases, Johnson said.

Peter Kretzenger is another farmer who comes to the market reg-

cause strawberries to rot before they ripen, Kretzenger noted.

Cheryl Browning of Rocky Road Farm in Athol sells grass-fed beef at the Wednesday market, so she said she was unaffected by the weather. However she also sells maple products and recalled the sugaring season was short this year. Maple trees need cool at night and warmth in the day to produce a lot of sap, and this year they got cold in the daytime as well as at night.

All the vendors at the market said they were happy to finally see

from 3 - 6 p.m. through the end of October. For now, it is being held in the usual location, on the corner of Avenue A and 6th Street, but on July 12th, when work begins on Peskeomskut Park, which is being entirely done over this year, the Farmers Market will shift to the corner of 2nd and Avenue A, its original location, until park renovation is completed.

New vendors are welcome. For more information about the Great Falls Farmers Market, call Suzette Snow-Cobb at 413-863-9026.

SHOW

continued from pg 1

now one of Adams' most important and well know photographs: "Moonrise, Hernandez, New Mexico." The price tag was \$150. Recently, that same print sold at auction for \$20,700.

Indeed, the attitude toward photography has greatly changed in the last 35 years. It is now among the most sought-after art forms. Photographs are now often auctioned at the best auction houses, numerous galleries are devoted exclusively to photography, and even museums (as all of us in the valley know) are dedicated to showcasing photography.

The same year that Lunn was launching Adams, a small group of French physicians founded a non-governmental organization to provide emergency medical assistance to those in need around the world. The private non-profit association was called Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). MSF currently operates in 19 countries. Working alongside 22,500 locally-hired staff, the MSF teams of doctors, nurses, sanitation experts, administrators, and other non-medical professionals have engaged in more than 3,800 field assignments. They have also become one of the major advocacy groups worldwide for those without advocates.

The Hallmark Museum of Contemporary Photography, from June 22nd through July 2nd at the downtown Turners Falls museum, will feature the work of the 2006 graduating class of the Hallmark



Photograph by Gabrielle Le Spade

Institute of Photography. Over 130 11"x14" photographs will be available not only for viewing, but for sale. Of these, 50 images, selected by a jury, will grace the walls of the museum; the others will be displayed in large bins. Which means that you might get a chance to buy the next Ansel Adams (or Robert Mapplethorpe, or Barbara Bordnick, or Jay Meisel) for a mere \$175 (framed) \$95 (unframed). And even if your photograph just pleases you, and even if the student doesn't go on to win fame and fortune, what Hallmark plans to do with the money makes a purchase extremely worthwhile.

Hallmark will donate 100% of the proceeds from the sale of the images to Doctors Without Borders. Of the many worthy organizations, MSF is among

the worthiest. MSF goes wherever they are needed. They provide not only immediate care in war and famine zones but also stay on in the aftermath of catastrophe, running hospitals and clinics, carrying out vaccination campaigns, and caring for those with infectious diseases including HIV/Aids.

Last year the Museum raised over \$10,000 for Tsunami relief with their first student art show. This year they're hoping to help MSF with a like amount, if not more.

The Student Show opens at 1:00 p.m. on June 22nd. The hours for the Museum, located at the corner of Third Street and Avenue A in the newly renovated Colle Building, are Thursday through Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.